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Addendum

Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 15 May 2014, the Commission considered agenda item 6, entitled "Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice". For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2014/11);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on the development of a draft set of model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2014/14);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the report of the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners at its third meeting (E/CN.15/2014/19 and Corr.1).

2. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children made a statement. The Director of the Division for Operations of UNODC made an introductory statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Thailand, Switzerland, China, Norway, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America. Statements were also made by the observers for the Dominican Republic, Qatar, Canada, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago.

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Deliberations

3. Speakers stressed the crucial role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice as a basis for national reform initiatives and increased international technical assistance. Several speakers informed the Commission about recent crime prevention and criminal justice reform initiatives undertaken in their countries, in many cases with the support and assistance of UNODC. Reference was made to recent developments concerning standards and norms relating to the treatment of prisoners, juvenile justice, violence against women and legal aid.

4. The continued importance of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as the main international reference for prison systems worldwide was underlined. Speakers welcomed the progress made by the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and supported the extension of its mandate. It was stressed that any amendments to the Rules should not lower current standards. Some speakers stressed the importance of allocating adequate resources to implement the existing Rules and emphasized that the revision of the Rules should be conducted in an efficient and expeditious manner while ensuring their quality. The importance of drawing on relevant expertise of Member States, the United Nations and civil society was considered crucial to ensure a balanced approach.

5. Speakers highlighted the need for tailored approaches to address violence against children and welcomed the elaboration of the draft model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, calling for their approval by the Commission and transmission to the General Assembly for adoption.

6. Speakers highlighted the importance of tailored approaches for youth and the potential of social policies with regard to effective crime prevention strategies and programmes. One speaker proposed the establishment of an intergovernmental expert group to examine standards for youth involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice reform.